

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13  
COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /135 W  
-----046176 021528Z /64

R 021155Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 3509

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PGOV, SU  
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY SPEECH TO NATION REFLECTS UNEASINESS

SUMMARY: BEGINNING HIS MONTHLY "FACE THE NATION" SPEECH WITH  
REFERENCE TO FLOOD DISASTERS IN NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN  
SUDAN, NIMEIRI BLAMED SEVERE SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE IN KHARTOUM  
AND ELSEWHERE ON PANIC, BLACK MARKETEERS, MISMANAGEMENT BY  
KHARTOUM PROVINCE COMMISSIONER AND, LATELY RAILROAD WASHOUTS.  
HE DWELT ON THREAT TO HIS AND SUDAN'S SECURITY FROM COM-  
MUNISTS AND DESCRIBED LINKS BETWEEN SOVIET AND MIDDLE EAST  
STRATEGY AND INTERNAL THREAT. NIMEIRI HINTED AT SUBVERSION  
WHICH APPARENTLY OCCURRED DURING OAU CONFERENCE IN KHARTOUM.  
NIMEIRI MIXED REMARKS ON LABOR WITH ACCUSATIONS OF

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PRO-SOVIET AGITATION BUT EXPLAINED LEGAL PROCEDURES  
WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN USED BY UNIONS INSTEAD OF  
STRIKES AT CRUCIAL TIMES. HE BLAMED MINISTER OF  
FINANCE FOR BUNGLING WHILE MINISTER WAS ABSENT ON  
OFFICIAL TRIP. HE PRAISED SUDANESE FOR MOST SUCCESSFUL  
OAU CONFERENCE AND DENIED RUMORS THAT SUDAN HAD NOT  
PROFITTED FROM EXPENSIVE BUT WELL-DONE AFFAIR. HE REFERRED

TO STANDARD OF LIVING PROBLEMS WITH VAGUE OPTIMISM.  
EMBASSY BELIEVES SPEECH IMPROVED PUBLIC MORALE AS MUCH  
AS COULD BE EXPECTED BUT NOTES NIMEIRI CONTINUES  
TO IGNORE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AT LEAST AS SERIOUS AS FLOOD  
DISASTERS. NIMEIRI'S ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-SOVIET ARGUMENTS  
HAVE REAPPEARED AFTER SHORT ABSENCE INDUCED BY NEED TO BE  
MODERATE DURING OAU PRESENCE. HIS HINTS OF SECURITY THREATS  
ARE PERHAPS EXAGGERATED TO CREATE SYMPATHY FOR HIS PROBLEMS  
AND DISTRACT AUDIENCE FROM LACK OF SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC WOES.  
END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI BEGAN MONTHLY "FACE THE NATION"  
SPEECH ON RADIO/TV JULY 31 BY ADMITTING HE WAS "HESITANT"  
TO MAKE SPEECH BECAUSE OF RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS IN  
CENTRAL, NORTHERN AND EASTERN SUDAN. FIRST PROBLEM NIMEIRI  
ADDRESSED WAS SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE. IN DEFENSIVE AND  
ACCUSATORY TONE USED THROUGHOUT SPEECH, NIMEIRI SAID GASOLINE  
SHORTAGE BEGAN WHEN NEWSPAPER REPORTED BRIEF STRIKE OF  
RAILROAD WORKERS JUNE 20. "TRADITIONAL FEVER OF PANIC  
AND HOARDING" FOR FEAR OF NON-DELIVERY OF IMPORTS FROM  
PORT SUDAN TO KHARTOUM CAUSED SHORTAGES OF PETROLEUM  
AND THIS WAS MADE WORSE BY BLACK MARKET. SELFISH AUTO  
OWNERS PURCHASED LARGE AMOUNTS OF PETROL AND "LORDS OF  
BLACK MARKET" SPREAD RUMORS THAT OAU CONFERENCE WOULD  
CONSUME UNLIMITED QUANTITIES OF SCARCE GASOLINE. COM-  
MISSIONER OF KHARTOUM DID NOT MANAGE TO REGULATE CONSUMPTION  
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UNTIL SITUATION DETERIORATED; WHEN RATION CARDS WERE  
ISSUED, SHORTAGE SEEMED TO VANISH INSTANTLY. NIMEIRI  
ADDED THAT RECENT FLOODS HAD RENEWED GASOLINE SHORTAGES.

2. NIMEIRI REFERRED TO THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN SUDAN  
BY RECALLING COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT IN JULY 1971. HE SAID  
KHARTOUM "WAS AND IS TARGET" FOR VIOLENT IDEALOGICAL  
INVASION. HE POINTED OUT SUDAN ON ALL BORDERS IS VULNERABLE  
TO PENETRATION IN FAVOR OF "YOU KNOW WHO." SAME "STRATEGIC  
INTERESTS" BEHIND 1971 COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST NIMEIRI ARE  
STILL "EAGER, INTERESTED AND ACTIVE" TO GET HIM "BEFORE,  
DURING AND AFTER JULY 1978." NIMEIRI SAID HE WAS AWARE  
THAT BESIEGING FORCE SURROUNDING SUDAN SINCE 1971 IS TRYING  
TO OVERCOME PREVIOUS FAILURES FROM NEIGHBORING BASE WITH  
HELP OF ELEMENTS INSIDE COUNTRY. "BUT I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM  
HERE THAT NIMEIRI DOES NOT RESEMBLE AL GHASHMI AND WOULD  
NEVER RESEMBLE SALIM RUBAYYI ALI. THE SUDAN AS LONG AS I  
LIVE WOULD NOT RESEMBLE YEMEN, A VICTIM OF CONTINUED  
CONSPIRACY AIMED AT SHAKING ITS STABILITY IN PREPARATION  
FOR ITS TURNING INTO A NEW BASE TO BE ADDED TO THE BASES  
OF ARMED OPPRESSION IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD. THE SUDANESE  
PEOPLE HAVE SEVERAL TIMES REJECTED COMMUNISM AND WOULD

ALWAYS CONTINUE TO DO SO."

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COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /135 W

-----073542 031257Z /44/64

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T P A R A . 7.)

3. MOVING TO LABOR UNREST, NIMEIRI OPENED WITH HINT THAT  
COMMUNISTS WERE INVOLVED IN AGITATION. HE SAID NEW WAGE  
AND JOB EVALUATION SCHEME WAS TO BEGIN JULY 1, 1978.

NIMEIRI LAMENTED FAILURE OF TRADE UNIONS TO FOLLOW LEGALLY  
PRESCRIBED PROCEDURES FOR SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES. HE  
SEEMED PARTICULARLY UPSET AT RECENT PRESSURE TACTICS OF  
UNIONS WHO CALLED WORK STOPPAGES AT MOST EMBARRASSING TIMES  
AND COMPLAINED OF INCIDENT IN WHICH IMPORTANT MESSAGE WAS  
NEGLECTED IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNTIL "SITUATION  
EXPLODED" - PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO ACCOUNTANTS STRIKE.

4. CONCERNING OAU CONFERENCE, NIMEIRI REPORTED GREAT

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SUCCESS WHICH SIGNIFIED RECOGNITION OF SUDAN'S STATUS AND EFFECTIVE ROLE ON AFRICAN, ARAB AND WORLD LEVELS. HE COMMENDED ALL SUDANESE AGENCIES. NIMEIRI MENTIONED GREAT SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH WERE WELL HANDLED BY MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES SO THAT EVEN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN COULD TOUR OMDURMAN STREETS IN SAFETY. PRAISING HOTELS, AIRPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SUNA (AT LENGTH) AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES, NIMEIRI TOLD LISTENERS THAT HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING OAU ADOPT GENERALLY MODERATE AND USEFUL RESOLUTIONS ON DIFFICULT AFRICAN CONFLICTS.

5. ANSWERING CRITICS, NIMEIRI COMPLAINED ABOUT CRITICISMS AND JOKES SUCH AS CARTOON SHOWING WIFE WHO BLAMES HUSBAND FOR INVITING MANY GUESTS WHILE THERE IS NO SUGAR, MEAT OR GAS IN HOUSE. HE ENLARGED ON SPIRITUAL VALUES AS OPPOSED TO CONCEIT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES PAID "FAR MORE THAN SUFFICIENT" FOR EXPENSES OF CONFERENCE. NIMEIRI CLAIMED CONFERENCE PROBABLY MADE MONEY FOR SUDAN. ONE INTERESTING ITEM WAS CLAIM THAT HUNDREDS OF MERCEDES AND PEUGEOTS OBTAINED FOR CONFERENCE WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN RESERVE BY SUDANGOV FOR SIMILAR OCCASIONS.

6. NIMEIRI CLOSED SPEECH WITH DISCUSSION OF PRESSING PROBLEMS OF DAY-TO-DAY LIFE AND ADDITIONAL RECENT NATURAL CATASTROPHES. HE SAID "WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT OUR VAST TERRITORY AND OUR LIMITED OUTLETS RENDER ANY EFFORT WE EXERT RATHER FRUITLESS." HE ALSO SAID SUDAN RAILWAYS WILL ALWAYS BE NECESSARY EVEN IF SUBSTITUTE LINK TO PORT SUDAN IS FOUND (MEANING, PROBABLY, PIPELINE WHICH HAS NOT HELPED AT ALL WITH GASOLINE SCARCITY). AS HE LIKES TO DO, NIMEIRI PRAISED ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN HELPING COUNTRY OVERCOME PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY IN THIS INSTANCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATURAL DISASTERS. HE CONCLUDED WITH COMMENDATION OF DECEASED MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO DIED SUDDENLY IN LONDON LAST SATURDAY.

7. COMMENT: SPEECH WAS UNUSUALLY ACCUSATORY AND AT SAME TIME TYPICALLY DEFENSIVE AND IN PLACES FATALISTIC ABOUT TOUGH PROBLEMS FACED BY SUDANESE PUBLIC. SOME SUDANESE CRITICIZE NIMEIRI FOR ATTEMPTING TO SHIFT BLAME FROM HIMSELF, WHILE OTHERS - PERHAPS MAJORITY - REACT FAVORABLY TO BLUNT, TOUGH TALK. NIMEIRI DID NOT MENTION SOUTHERN REGION WHICH CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE SERIOUS FOOD, FUEL AND POWER SHORTAGES, ACCORDING REPORTS REACHING KHARTOUM,

NIMEIRI'S SPEECH WAS DEVOID OF SPECIFIC REMEDIES FOR MOST PROMINENT PUBLIC CONCERNS: INFLATION, LOW WAGES, SCARCITIES OF FLOUR, SUGAR AND OTHER FOOD, ABSENCE OF GASOLINE IN KHARTOUM (WHICH HAS CAUSED CANCELLATIONS OF PUBLIC EVENTS), AND INCREASINGLY FREQUENT POWER OUTAGES. WHILE VAGUE ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS, NIMEIRI ATTEMPTED TO APPEAL TO SECURITY THREATS AND NATIONAL GLORY, HOPING, PERHAPS, TO UNITE PEOPLE BY APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM. REPORTS OF SECURITY INCIDENTS IN KHARTOUM DURING OAU (REPORTED BY DAO), ARE THOUGHT TO BE CAUSED MORE BY OMNIPRESENT SECURITY FORCES THAN BY TRUE DANGER. SUDANESE SHOWED NO SIGN OF WORRY AT TIME.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GASOLINE, SPEECHES, FLOODS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, PINT, PGOV, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)  
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**Type:** TE  
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